

SCALE : MILES 0 5 10 20 30 40

.....→ INDICATES OBSERVED UFO FLIGHT PATH

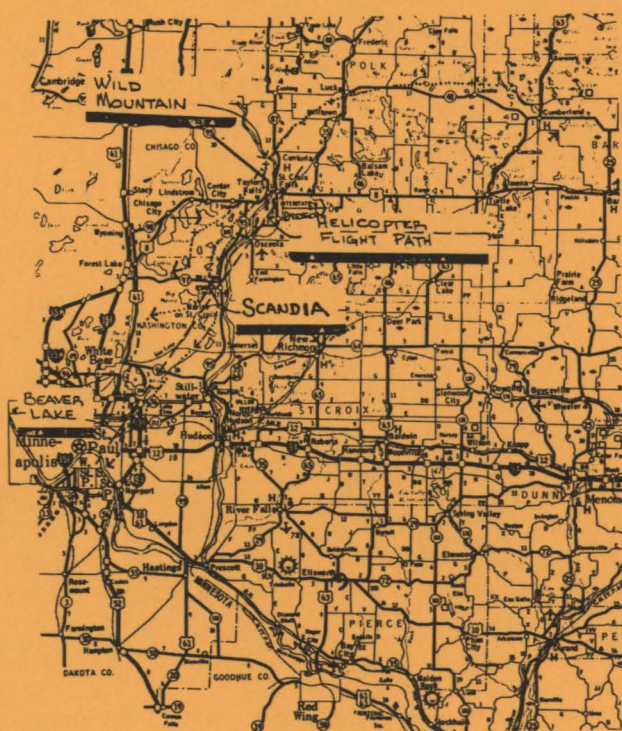


FIGURE 1.

SEE PAGE 6—JULY ISSUE

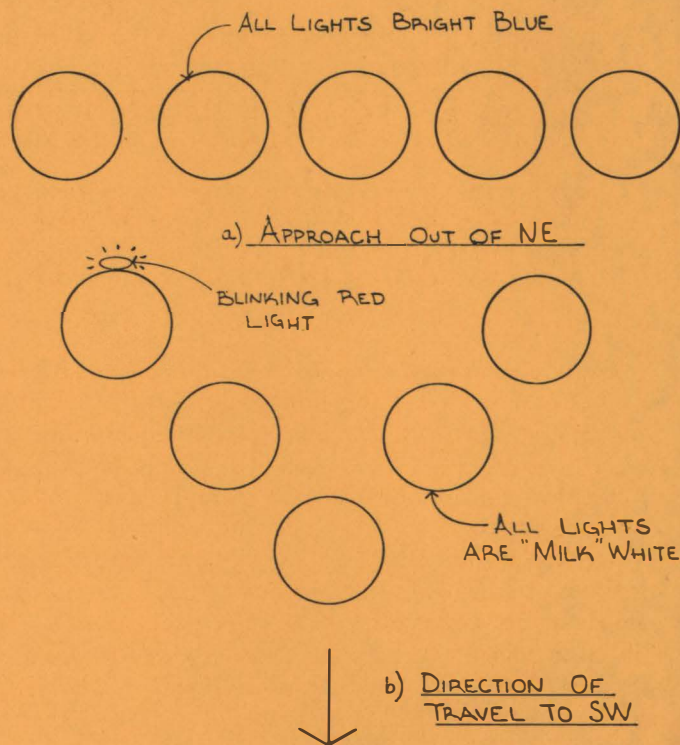


FIGURE 2.

SEE PAGE 7—JULY ISSUE

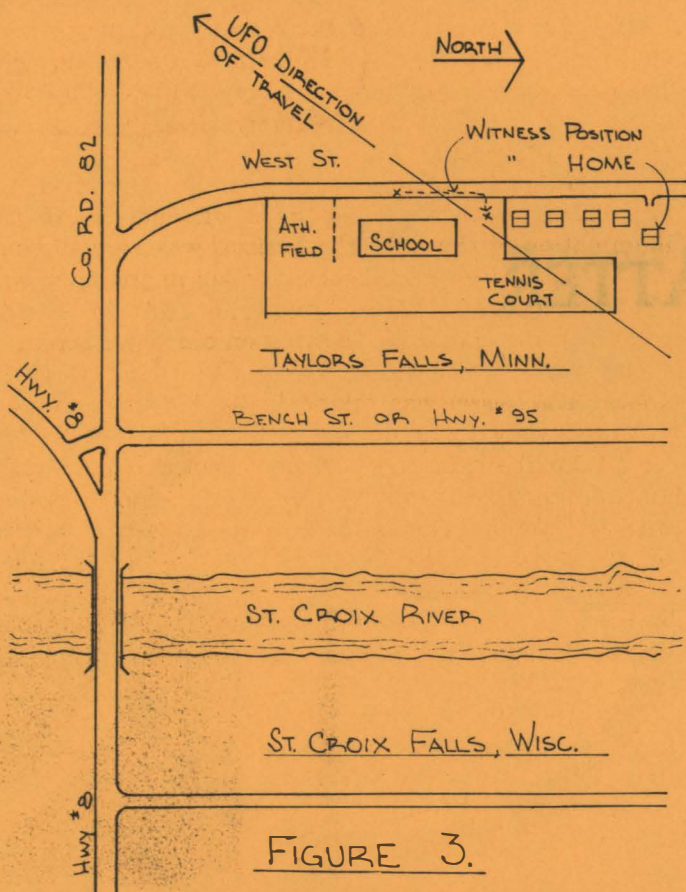


FIGURE 3.

SEE PAGE 7—JULY ISSUE

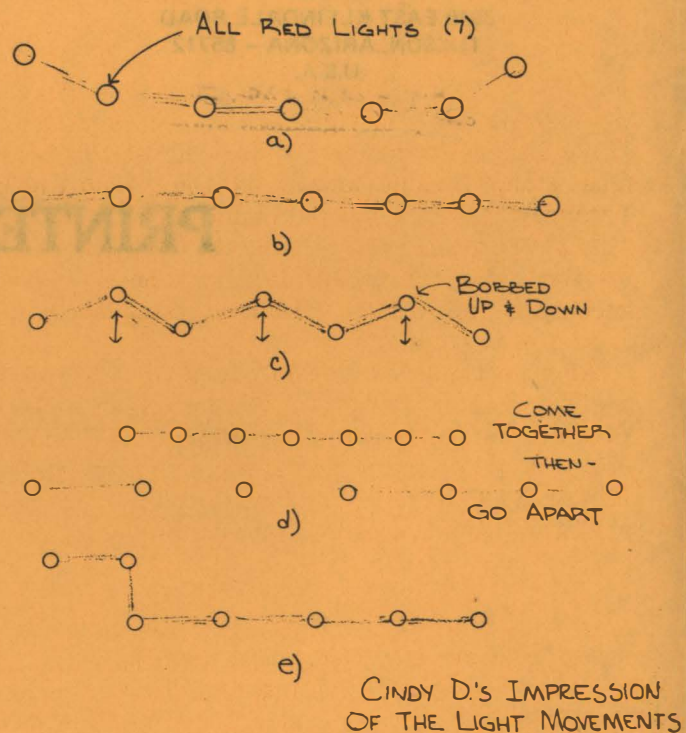


FIGURE 4.

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the apro bulletin

VOL. 28, NO. 1

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

JULY, 1979

BACK-UP FOR N.Z. SIGHTINGS?

THE JENKINS AND PURDY INCIDENTS

By H.L. Heady

During the years circa 1828-30, newcomers began to settle the land in the southern Ozarks region of Southwest Missouri. It is a land of clear, sparkling, spring-fed streams, forested hills and a constantly changing panorama of mild climate and unrivaled natural beauty.

In the White River country (now impounded into four lakes, Beaver Lake of Arkansas, Lake Table Rock, Lake Taneycomo and Bull Shoals Lake) there are hills called "bald knobs"; certain hills that were devoid of trees. This is a natural tree-filled land, known as "oak-hickory" forest because of the predominating species. Scientists who have studied the bald knobs are at a loss to explain why certain hills are devoid of trees on top, while other surrounding hills of comparable height were completely tree-covered. One hypothesis advanced was that the American Indians had used certain hills as ceremonial grounds, and had repeatedly burned them over in order to keep them free of trees.

To my knowledge no one knows for sure.

After the Civil War, the land near the Arkansas border became infiltrated with lawless bands of murdering, robbing, bushwhacking guerrillas who roamed at large. A group of vigilantes known as the Law and Order League formed in 1885 to combat the guerrillas. The group became known as the "Bald-Knobbers" because they used the bald-knobbed hills as clandestine meeting places. By 1886, the Bald-Knobbers had rid the area of the disreputable influence of the illicit moonshine operations, gambling establishments and houses of ill fame.*

As is often true in the cases of self-appointed vigilante law and order enthusiasts, the Bald-Knobbers became more repressive and more feared than their cutthroat predecessors and it was not until 1889 that a combined effort by state and local law enforcement officials were able to restore justice and order.

THE JENKINS INCIDENT

It was Sunday morning, September 3, 1978. A sunny day had just begun and there were only a few puffy cumulus clouds contrasting against the deep blue September sky. It was a happy day for Dora Sturgell as she awakened at 7:00 a.m. Marlett and Dora Sturgell had guests from Kansas City, Raymond

(See Incidents—Page Three)

[The following is a letter which is largely self-explanatory and offers information which may corroborate the sightings and films of UFOs in the vicinity of Christchurch, New Zealand in December of 1978 — Ed.]

S.S. President Johnson

1 January, 1979

Enroute from Yokohama to Seattle

On the evening of Saturday, 30 December, 1978 at 1950 hours (ship's time) or 0950 G.M.T. in DR. Latitude 36° 18' N Longitude 147° 28' E, I was relieving the Second Mate on the four to eight watch, Mr. Justin Hagglund. As I was taking over the watch he brought to my attention a loom of light about two points on my starboard bow. The loom was steady and showed upward like a very bright search light. The Master, Captain Coppock, helmsman and lookout were watching the strange loom.

Thinking it might be a ship with all its deck lights on, I tried to pick it up on our radars but to no avail. This vessel is equipped with two new radars that are in excellent operating condition but no targets appeared on either screen. Both radars were on 24 mile range.

At approximately 2012 the light itself appeared on the horizon showing a very large and very bright round light like a white frosted light bulb. It appeared about half the size of a full moon if it were on the horizon.

At 2027 the light was on our starboard beam approximately three to five miles off and due to the illumination of the light the horizon was very distinct and visible. The approximate position of the light was DR. Latitude 36° 13' N Longitude 147° 43' E and there still was no target showing on our radar screen.

Our vessel was in force 8 seas and winds up to 35 knots. The vessel was taking up to 15° rolls and the light was showing no motion in any manner. It seemed as though the light was a fixed object such as a rock or land mass or hovering close to or above the water. Our navigational charts show no land within hundreds of miles from our position.

Helmsmen Howard Bethell, Alfred Kroll, George Williams and myself were watching the light with binoculars and it appeared to be suspended in mid-air being attached to nothing.

The following morning Alfred Kroll, A.B., reported to me that the Australian news had broadcasted they had sighted a similar such light off the New Zealand coast and that the light was photographed and photos were televised over their local television stations.

(See Back-Up—Page Three)

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SUBSCRIPTION to BULLETIN: Same as Above.

Back-Up

(Continued from Page One)

The above description of the unidentifiable light is what I, Billie D. Norton, 3rd Officer, Alfred Kroll, A.B., George Williams, A.B. and helmsman Howard Bethell sighted and believe it could have been an UFO hovering above the water.

According to Captain Coppock, other sightings have been noted in these waters.

Incidents

(Continued from Page One)

Morgan, their son-in-law, daughter Frances and grandson Bruce (age 15) were in the home for the holiday.

As Mrs. Sturgell passed the large south window in the living room, she noted a "white" object in one of the lower pastures about 600 feet distant from the house and on the bench land just above Flat Creek that adjoins the lower property. At that moment, Mrs. Sturgell had a very normal psychological reaction of trying to relate the object to something she was familiar with. Her first impression was that it could be a sheet of white plastic or some other similar material reflecting in the morning sun. Ozarkians are very perceptive in their observations and she realized full well that the object did not belong in her natural environment. The rest of the family was soon up and about and there was good food, plenty of hot coffee and warm conversation. Other members of the family had observed the object in the lower field through the window, but none realized at the time the full implications of what the object really was. The family was just too busy with the warmth of the social occasion to be too concerned, and the cattle in the field showed no alarm at the object.

By the time the breakfast dishes were washed, Marlett Sturgell had decided to drive the tractor across the draw (a dry natural waterway) east to the barn. The tractor is propane-powered with a normal ignition feature and was not affected in any way by the object in the lower field. Mr. Sturgell parked the tractor, turned off the ignition and dismounted. He looked down toward the pasture and noted that the object had slowly risen from its original position and was "floating like a balloon." He further stated there was no sound involved. Mr. Sturgell ran toward the house, yelling for other family members to come out and view the object. Mrs. Sturgell and the others were able to also see the object rise steadily toward the "west". (Mrs. Sturgell said "north northwest") The object was rounded, egg-shaped, more rounded on the top than the bottom with a "black streak on one side". Mr. Sturgell stated that it had no legs or appendages. It was very "shiny" and "sparkled" in the morning sun as it rose.

The group watched the object rise westward for about five minutes and were amazed to see another, much larger object move from behind a cloud. The smaller object went directly to the larger "log-shaped" (cylindrical) vehicle and "disappeared behind, or merged with" the larger of the two objects. Mr. Sturgell estimated the larger vehicle to be "100 feet or longer" but he was not sure of the height of the two objects. Within moments after rendezvous, neither of the two strange vehicles could be seen. I asked if they had gone behind a cloud and Mrs. Sturgell said that they "just disappeared into the blue sky" immediately. It was 9:00 a.m. and the object had been on the ground for two hours prior to its departure.

The day I had visited was October 31, 1978. The fantastic Ozark hills had put on one of the most beautiful displays of fall color that I had ever remembered. The Sturgell farm lies in a remote valley in Barry County and borders the clear-running Flat Creek just north of a portion of Mark Twain National Forest. "Bald Knob" mountain lies along the northern edge of the forest and is in full view from the Sturgell farm. From the farm, the bald knob appears to be fully forested and as natural as the rest of the area.

The farm is in an area east of Cassville (population 2,000) and just south of Jenkins, a country crossroads community. Not knowing the Sturgell name or the exact location of the farm, I had contacted Chief Deputy Bob Norman of the Sheriff's Department in a Cassville restaurant and had asked for directions to the farm. He was very accommodating and referred me to the Sheriff's Department nearby to see Deputy Steve Breeden. Mr. Breeden was very courteous and gave exact instructions to the farm, which is in a remote and somewhat inaccessible area. He spoke briefly about another incident at Purdy, Missouri (population 600) which is just south of Monett (population 6,000). He spoke of an event relating to a "parachute" and some "military equipment" before giving me directions to the Sturgell farm.

When first arriving at the Sturgell's, I was immediately and favorably impressed by both persons. They are both typically Ozarkian; open, frank, independent and honest types. Having lived on the farm for many years, they know their environment and would immediately recognize as foreign, any atypical elements that they would see. They impressed me as just the typical kind of good neighbors you will find in many parts of the Ozark area. They did not appear to be given to exaggeration and Mrs. Sturgell appeared to be more concerned about skeptics than about any possible dangers from strange objects. She is frank and values her credibility and integrity highly.

A separate interview with Mrs. Sturgell revealed that the object on the ground intensified in brightness as it moved away from the field and toward a higher elevation. She stated that it was intense enough at one time to hurt her eyes. She stated that it "reflected the sun and sparkled" more intensely as it rose in the sky. My impression from her description was that it was

luminous and emitting light to some extent but she was sure the intensifying light was light reflected from the morning sun.

Mr. Sturgell conducted me to the lower pasture where the object was first seen. There was a circular area in the field about three and one half feet in diameter where the grass had died. The circle was surrounded by a verdant green area of grass which was longer and a deeper green than the surrounding pasture (this was almost thirty days after the event occurred). Persons from one of the UFO investigative groups had been there a few days previously and the soil had been disturbed when samples were taken. The only time I have ever seen such a deep green color in this type of grass is after the application of nitrogen fertilizer. It could have been from some kind of nitrogenous waste or from some kind of decaying organic matter that would leave nitrogen products such as nitrates or nitrites. There were only two small sprigs of green within the circle. The rest was quite flat and dead.

I spoke in more depth to Mr. Sturgell about the larger vehicle in the sky. He compared it with the color of the smaller unit which he stated to be bright "aluminum or white" and noted that the larger vehicle (cylindrical) craft was a dull metallic gray. He once used the term "dome-shaped" for the smaller craft, estimating the size as five feet high and six feet wide and "flatter" on the bottom. He also stated that it appeared larger in the air than on the ground.

Mr. Sturgell had heard about cattle mutilation stories and wanted to discuss them. I gave him what information I had and a biologist's view of the matter. The autumn sun had begun to lower in the sky and I prepared to depart. It had been an interesting day. Before I entered my auto, Mr. Sturgell asked me to go by to see a Mr. Everett Smith of Purdy, Missouri on my way back to Springfield. He briefly recounted the events at Purdy and believed there could be a relationship in the events.

**The Bald-Knobbers, a novel by Clyde Edwin Tuck, Burton Pub. Company, Kansas City, Mo. 1957*

THE PURDY INCIDENT

Upon entering Purdy, I was impressed by the quiet, unhurried quality of the community. School children, released for the day, were playing near the main street of town and I thought what a nice place it was to rear children. Getting directions from the salesperson at the farmer's exchange, I quickly found the small bungalow home of Mr. and Mrs. Smith just two blocks away.

Mrs. Smith answered the door and one could tell immediately there would be pleasant conversation ahead. It was on the night of September 14, 1978 when the event occurred. Mr. Smith was not at home that evening and Mrs. Smith had watched television until 12:30 p.m. Preparing to retire, Mrs. Smith had glanced through the front living room window and noted an object on the front lawn outlined by the

nearby street light. She stated the object was about two feet high and four feet in diameter. Her first impression was that someone had deposited a white plastic bag of refuse on her lawn. Being unable to view the object through the front door because of a large sculptured shrub in her lawn, she went to the bedroom window for a better view. Her first impulse was to go outside and get a closer look, but because she was alone in the house at the time, she wisely chose not to do so.

When morning came, she went to the front lawn. The object was gone but there was a three foot circle that she described as having "a burned or scalded look". She stated to me, "Here I can show you" and we walked from the porch to the front lawn. The leaves from a maple tree had fallen and we cleared a five foot area, using our shoes as rakes. There was a well defined circle about three feet in diameter, consisting of grass having a faded blue-green appearance. Closer examination revealed that the tips of the grass in the circle had a brown, dead appearance and were devoid of chlorophyll. I asked her if there had been a frost in the vicinity and she said there had been a "light frost." Examination of the surrounding grass showed no frost damage and the unaffected grass was a normal green color and was still producing seed, indicating it had not been damaged in the same way as the faded and stunted portion of the circle which was producing no seed.

Before I left, Mrs. Smith told me there had been an article in the local newspaper about an object hovering in her yard, reported second-handedly by some other individual in the community. She said the report was erroneous and at no time did she see the object move. Again, as in the Jenkins incident, the persons reporting the incident were more concerned about public ridicule than they were about the danger or possible danger of the object seen. These events lead to a good base for psychological study, not of the individuals reporting such events so much, but rather those who find such reports as a basis for ridicule. It is very unscientific to draw conclusions based on too little evidence, and the literature is full of evidence for those who will take time to read and study the phenomena of the past.

Mrs. Smith is a pleasant conversationalist and appeared to be very sure of what she saw, taking great care not to exaggerate. Mrs. Smith did not make her report to others until after she had heard of the Jenkins incident and she too, believed there could be a connection. At least one appears to be a remotely controlled device, why could not the other have been? Truthfully, I found the front lawn in the small town as an unlikely place for such an event to occur, but the more I study reports, the more often I conclude that "unlikely" is more normal than abnormal. Truth is stranger than fiction.

The general area around Jenkins and Purdy is about forty air miles from the Pineville sightings of early 1977. The area of the Pineville flap is in the Huckle-

berry Ridge State Forest vicinity. The whole southern tier of Missouri counties is taken up with thousands of acres of state and federal forest lands and the areas are remote, having a relatively sparse population. It is an area where UFOs could move about with little chance of detection, with safe bald knob landing sites here and there, with ample forest cover and plenty of clear mountain water for the taking.

The questions always arise: "What is their motive?" "Where are they from?" "What do they want?" In the argument about extraterrestrial versus interdimensional, have we overlooked the idea that expansive space travel may not be possible without understanding interdimensional as it relates to high velocity movement in space? I believe the answers lie just ahead and I believe the curtain that has enshrouded mankind's thinking since the Dark Ages will soon be lifted. But first, we must remove the blindfolds from the scientists' eyes; eyes that have been clouded with false notions that it is easier to play along with cultural status standards than to immerse their minds in true scientific endeavors.

SUMMER RELEASE PLANNED

The Encyclopedia of UFOs, a book which has been under production by Author Ron Story for over three years, is planned for release by Doubleday (New York) and New English Library (London) next June.

The book contains more than 300 entries (including about 200 illustrations) arranged in alphabetical order for easy reference. Appendices include (1) an extensive bibliography of more than 600 books and pamphlets, (2) a chronology of important events in UFO history, and (3) a complete directory of UFO periodicals published throughout the world.

APRO is proud of its participation in the production of this ambitious effort. Our library was used extensively in its formulation. We feel that it will provide a very much needed reference guide to the serious UFO scholar, and will be very useful to those of casual interest as well.

HELP!

Although the Headquarters Staff made an appeal for continued support in the November 1978 issue of the Bulletin, we must again ask the membership to help us out.

Throughout the 28 years of APRO's existence personnel at Headquarters has kept things moving. Mr. Lorenzen, besides his other duties has maintained office machinery. Our current office manager, Mrs. Panter, has donated many hours to keep the wheels of

administration rolling. Our membership Secretary, Mrs. Madeleine Cooper, has served in the capacity of processing new members and answering letters of inquiry pertaining to membership and subscription for twelve years without remuneration. Allen Benz, our staff librarian likewise donates his time to his exacting position.

We have made a continuing effort to keep the cost of membership down, at the same time carrying out research and investigations in a most difficult field against sometimes staggering odds.

However, at this time we find ourselves in an impossible situation: Our copying machine and addressograph are "on their last legs". The addressograph is nearly twenty years old (with the exception of APRO only NICAP and one foreign group are as old) and the copier is about fourteen years old! Minor parts are difficult to obtain and major ones (which are wearing out due to age) are nearly impossible to obtain.

We are faced with three choices: 1. Go without the services of these machines (which would greatly limit our operating efficiency) 2. Contract to buy new machines, facing two years of monthly payments which we cannot guarantee that we can meet or

3. Ask the membership to pitch in and help us with the cost of the new machines.

We opted for choice number three for obvious reasons: The machines are needed in order to maintain our services to the membership and the field in general and we don't feel we can put the organization in the position of making a down payment and possibly losing the machines and our equity because of inability to pay.

There are a number of members who have periodically donated to APRO with no urging from Headquarters. We urge those individuals to dig a little deeper into their pockets and help us as much as possible. Donations are tax deductible and those responding will receive a copy of APRO's Letter of Determination of tax exempt status so that they can designate APRO's Federal and State tax exempt number on income tax forms.

When January 1, 1980 rolls around APRO will begin its twenty-ninth year. No organization in the world can boast that tenure; as a matter of fact there are many currently existing organizations which are "spin-offs" of APRO. The investigative procedures utilized by those same groups were pioneered by APRO. Don't let the progress of the "grand old gal" of UFO research suffer--help her NOW!

PLEASE!
Send NEW and OLD
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A Report on the Investigation of the Scandia, Minnesota UFO Sightings of 22 March 1978

by
ROBERT E. ENGBERG P.E.
P.O. Box 80143
St. Paul, Mn. 55108
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(Editor's Note: Although a preliminary report and follow-up on the Minnesota-Wisconsin reports of March 22, 1978 have been published in the *Bulletin*, the investigation carried out and finalized by Field Investigator Robert E. Engberg is so detailed, complete and revealing that the editorial staff felt it appropriate to carry the concluding report, even though in serialized form. This is the case in which the objects were identified as a flight of helicopters by the Center for UFO Studies, and as it turned out, that judgement was hasty.

Mr. Engberg is a consulting mechanical engineer in private practice and serves as President of Gas Dynamics Corporation of St. Paul, Minnesota. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a B.S. in mathematics. He has studied the UFO phenomena for ten years and although the geographic area of his investigative responsibilities is largely East-Central Minnesota, he is willing to respond to any significant sighting anywhere in the upper Midwest if time and circumstance permit.)

March of 1978 brought Minnesota the greatest UFO flap that this state has ever recorded. It is my opinion, after studying UFO reports, data, and books on the subject for over a decade, that in the evening of the 22nd of March, one of the most bold UFO fly-overs occurred over the Minnesota - Wisconsin border area. This includes the St. Croix Valley recreational area and the east and northeast suburbs of St. Paul extending to the Wisconsin state line.

The flight path traced out over eighty-five miles from Cumberland, Wisconsin, to Newport, Minnesota, where the last known sighting of a UFO was reported near Carver Lake. This flight trajectory is traced out in Figure 1 as a result of numerous individual sightings and time sequences. My investigation revealed two patterns of UFO flight; the earlier being at about 19:00 hours on Chisago Lake near Chisago City, Minnesota, and going east in a flight of three units between Dresser and St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin. This path is shown by the solid arrows in Figure 1 and point in the general direction of flight. The second flight pattern seemed to originate near Cumberland, Wisconsin, about 20:45 to 21:15 hours and followed the eighty-five mile course to the Twin City area as

mapped out also in Figure 1.

My investigation of these events began in July and continued to December of 1978. Joyce Shapiro, another field investigator for APRO, compiled the newspaper reports and witness log initially and turned the case over to me because of her time and family restrictions. Twenty-four separate interviews followed which involved more than one witness in most cases. The process of interviewing produced a "chaining" of unreported witnesses and many related and unrelated sightings over the past few years. All witness interviews were tape recorded and index cards were made up for each interview. My files now contain over nine hours of these taped reports and in excess of two dozen witness summary cards for convenient recall and data retrieval.

For purposes of confidentiality, which most witnesses preferred, in the following report I will state only the person's first name and last initial. This will permit retrieval from the file record and usually assure that person's anonymity.

The weather data for 22 March 1978 from the Weather Bureau files and as recorded at the Minneapolis - St. Paul International Airport is as follows:

Maximum and minimum temperatures: 49 degrees and 32 degrees F. resp., Zero precipitation with a trace of snow and ice on the ground, Wind out of the NW averaging 10.3 MPH with a high reading of 21 MPH for the day, Skycover from sunrise to sunset - 20%; All data taken at ground elevation of 919 feet above m.s.l.

A check was made of the radar stations overlapping the general area of the sightings. The three bases at Farmington, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, and the 23rd NORAD Region in Duluth, Minnesota, all reported "Negative" on the evening of the 22nd. This is one of the highly unusual conditions of these sightings. Obviously, there were a number of very large craft in the area, yet nothing was picked up on radar in the sighting region.

DETAILS OF THE SIGHTING

The first wave of sightings began about 19:30 hours on the south end of Chisago Lake in Chisago County when the Kenneth O. family witnessed five red lights with the end one blinking. Sometime between 19:00 and 19:30 hours Clarence M. and his wife saw three steady red lights going from west to east to the south of St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin. They judged the objects to be 4 to 6 miles south and going between 95 - 115 MPH with no apparent noise. Clarence estimated the objects' pattern size at 4' - 5" in diameter at arm's length. Clarence M. is a night duty police officer with a retirement from the United States Air Force.

This area south of St. Croix Falls had an earlier sighting that evening as well. Sometime between 17:00 and 18:30 hours, Bernice V. and her two girls were visiting a residence three miles south of St. Croix Falls on Highway 8. They viewed a stationary object for at

least fifteen minutes. The object appeared to be surrounded with bright, clear lights, similar to car head lights. No revolving or motion was seen with the lights and no noise reported. Bernice sized the UFO as being a hand's width at arm's length.

A second wave of sightings began in Cumberland about 20:45 to 21:15 hours. This report as yet has not been confirmed, but was first reported in "The APRO Bulletin" as being seen by 11 individuals. They reported seeing:


"... A very large object, possibly up to 150 yards in length sporting bright, round, red lights. It made no sound, traveled from NE to SW, at a low rate of speed and was estimated to be at approximately 1000 ft. altitude."

Next to observe a fleet of unusual objects was a night-duty police officer in Milltown, Wisconsin, some 25 miles west of Cumberland. Craig J. watched five steady red lights fly in formation for 5 minutes going from east to west and located north of Milltown. The first 3 objects held a constant oblique formation with the fourth object trailing with some vertical oscillation. The fifth light trailed with a large vertical, rapid oscillation of a 3 inch amplitude at arm's length with a period of one second or less. Craig estimated the entire formation at arm's length to cover a spread of 1 foot to 3 feet at the point of closest approach. He also said that the formation appeared to split up in the SW direction with the leading three units going west toward Minnesota and the trailing two units going more to the south. The approach angle of elevation was about 15 degrees and increased slightly through the duration of the sighting until the lights moved into the SSW horizon. The lights were about 0.25 inches in diameter at arm's length. The time was 21:00 hours or slightly past.

The UFO flight path appears to cross over into Minnesota near the Wild Mountain Ski Resort approximately 7 miles north of Taylor's Falls. John W. and many others witnessed the approach of three huge objects from their vantage points on the chair lifts and at the top of the ski slope. John related to me that he watched three units as big as tires held overhead come from the ENE, make a turn to the south and finally disappear over the tree line. These objects were at about 100 - 200 ft. altitude. The time John recalled was about 21:00 hours with the craft making no sound during the sighting. Their color was described as big orange globes as they approached the ski slopes with a steady speed of about a C-130 military plane. As the objects went over head, they became white in color and perfect circles in shape, but returned to an orange color as the units disappeared to the south over the St. Croix River, heading for Taylor's Falls. John also describes the night as nearly perfectly clear.

The next sighting occurred in Taylor's Falls by Mrs. Betty A., her son Brent (14), and friend Mike L. (14) at 21:05 hours. Their sighting lasted for about 10 minutes. Figure 2 relates the shapes, and locations of

the objects with respect to the witnesses are depicted in Figure 3. Betty's narrative best describes the event:

"I was driving north on West Street with my son Brent and his friend, Mike. The boys were discussing the evening at the Dalles House where they had been swimming. I had driven past the first entrance to the school when all of a sudden I saw in the sky five milky blue large lights perfectly spaced in a straight line appear from nowhere. The lights were about the size of a 9" luncheon plate (At arm's length - R.E.E.). It was the most spectacular sight I have ever seen in the sky, and against the clear blue sky it was beautiful. I told the boys to look out the windshield and the first reaction came from Mike: 'Oh my God, what is it' and he slumped down in the seat. My answer was: 'I think you boys are seeing a UFO'. I stopped the car and Mike and I got out and walked into the school parking lot and were underneath the object. Brent stayed in the car with our dog, Triket, a German Schnauzer, who was quite excited and nervous at the time and we did not want her to get out. Brent was also scared. From underneath we did not see any kind of ship or object, but the five large blue lights which remained the same as they did when we first saw them, milky blue, globe shaped and in a straight line. We did hear a low humming sound, but no engine sound of any kind. As we watched the lights heading towards County Road 82 (Southwest) the lights changed instantly to a milky white and they were in a  shape instead of a straight line, but the lights remained the same size. I did notice a small red light, about the size of a baseball, on the light on the right. The object was still very clear to us and was heading southwest when we got back into the car and back home. Once in the house, we realized all three of us were upset and nervous."

Betty further describes the formation's speed as 10 MPH with an altitude of about 200 feet. The night sky was clear and the sighting lasted approximately 10 minutes.

It appears that the 3 objects over Wild Mountain were joined by 2 others before the original formation approached Taylor's Falls. We recall the 5 unit formation that initially appeared to split up into groups of 3 and 2 objects SW of Milltown. Did they recombine again at Taylor's Falls?

What is a logical continuation of this flight occurs next in the small town of Shafer, SW of Taylor's Falls. Rita D. with her children and their young friends watched a formation of 7 bobbing red lights heading in a SW direction. The lights were first seen about 1/4 mile east of town near and over a farmstead. It was exactly 21:15 hours and Rita estimates the speed as 5 MPH. Her impression was that the lights were on a single, round object the size of a "747" airplane at an altitude of 500 feet.

Cindy D. drew the light patterns resembling the arrangements shown in Figure 4. Their initial sighting from the deck of their mobile home lasted 3 - 4

minutes. The younger members of this group gave chase to the light formation for 3 - 5 miles till it was lost from view over the terrain. No object appeared to connect the lights and no one recalled seeing any rotation of the light pattern.

A similar set of lights were next sighted at the south end of Chisago Lake by the Kenneth O. family. Altogether there were eight people in a van heading south near County Road 83. The lights were described as the apparent size of 1 inch diameter balls and extending for 5 feet, all at arm's length. The lights were a steady, dim, solid red color which would start and stop intermittently and travel at about 5 MPH. The formation made no noise, yet all the dogs in the neighborhood were barking excitedly. The flight path was to the SW away from the observers and about 2 blocks distant. An estimate of the time of the event was between 21:15 and 21:30 hours. Suddenly and simultaneously the lights went out or just disappeared!

The UFO activity next progressed south a few miles to the area of Bone and Goose Lake located in New Scandia Township in Washington County. Multiple sightings began to take place now as people in scattered areas began to witness flying objects. Simultaneously, for instance, after 21:00 hours, Marie I. and a companion noticed 4 red lights, 2 large and 2 small on a descending saucer shape which had a very poor outline. Figure 5(a) depicts the location of the steady and blinking lights. Again the object came out of the east with a southwest heading. A 4-inch diameter disc at arm's length would best give its apparent size. The length of the sighting was 5 minutes as the object headed to the SW past Bone Lake.

Three miles away to the SE of this location David and Cathy H. were having their own excitement as they watched from their living room. 10 - 12 lights in two rows, one above the other, the bottom pattern in the shape of an ellipse crossed over Goose Lake heading from the north to south at about 15 MPH. They made an estimate of the unit as being 40 feet in diameter with a height of 20 feet; considering their location the size was that of a tennis ball at an arm's length. The lights were dominantly red but they noticed that some were blue and yellow with the now typical "bobbing" behavior. Throughout the 4 - 5 minute sighting duration neither David nor Cathy perceived any sound emanating from the object. The moon, David recalls, was at about a 40 degree elevation and the formation of lights was below it at about 20 degrees elevation with a north to south trajectory. This path, after another mile, would vector the UFO directly over Scandia, Minnesota, a town soon to become a by-word with Minnesota UFO activity.

Scandia is a sleepy little town of a few hundred people just south off the busy east-west State Road No. 97. The quantity of sightings will increase sharply at this point due to a greater population density combined with the much reduced speed of the object. Also, the craft had by then dropped to an altitude on

the order 100 - 300 feet on an average. Many people in Scandia saw the object(s) but my interviewing in this area was restricted as the authorities were reluctant to give out any names whatsoever. My contacts had to be tracked down by strictly word-of-mouth, hearsay, and newspaper clippings.

One such contact was the Wayne E. family living about two blocks to the east of Scandia's business district. They reported to me that 5 soundless red lights passed over town near their home in a NE to SW direction. The pattern of lights was described as 3 car-lengths long and 1 1/2 car-lengths high at a level just above the tree height. Roxy M., a neighbor, saw the same UFO at a location which appeared to be between Roxy's residence and Wayne's home. Coincidentally, one month earlier, Wayne's children observed a UFO near the ground in the area where they were sledding about dusk just a few blocks distant from their home.

One half mile east of Scandia on Highway 97 near the intersection with Highway 95, Dean A. and two companions watched a UFO cross the highway directly above them going from north to south. He describes the object as surrounded by ten red and green flashing lights which they watched for a time interval of 30 seconds to 1 minute. The sighting time was about 21:30 hours and the estimated height was 200 feet. When spotted, the UFO was stationary above the road and had a wobble to its motion with no perceptible noise. The lights were of a solid color with no definite shape to the background object. The apparent length was 12 to 18 inches at one's reach. It disappeared to the south in 5 to 10 seconds. Figure 5(b) is Dean's recollection of the light arrangement and shape.

A consistent continuation of Wayne E.'s sighting described above was to occur just about 1 1/2 miles SW of Scandia on County Road #3. Carol A. was driving south on #3 at about 55 MPH when she suddenly noticed to her immediate left a large object pacing her car. The object had five (5) large solid red lights and appeared at tree-top height. This large, grey mass with the lights wobbled and hovered at first but then steadied and followed her car for 1 1/2 miles till she arrived home. No radio static or car malfunction was noted. She describes its apparent size as 2 feet long and 4 1/2 inches high at arm's length. The unit left the side of the road and circled around the house as Carol got out of her car and ran into her home. As she watched from behind drawn drapes, the craft turned west and crossed Big Marine Lake still maintaining a constant height without any perceptible noise. Her dog was in the house for most of the sighting and had no apparent reaction even when let outside. The time of arrival at her house was 21:15 hours and the sighting duration was about 15 minutes. Carol's reaction was that of curiosity, interest, and a little fright.

TO BE CONTINUED
IN THE AUGUST ISSUE

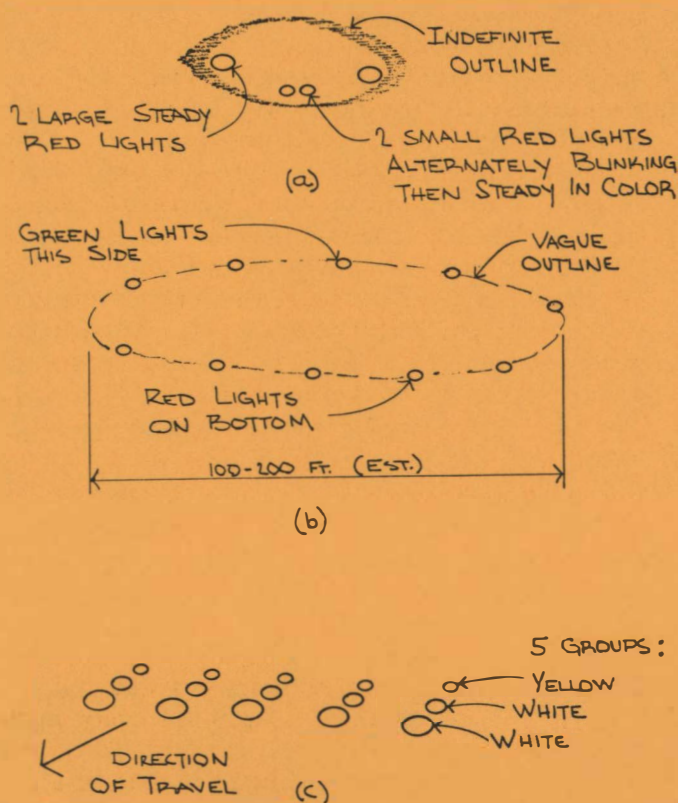


FIGURE 5.

SEE PAGE 8—JULY ISSUE

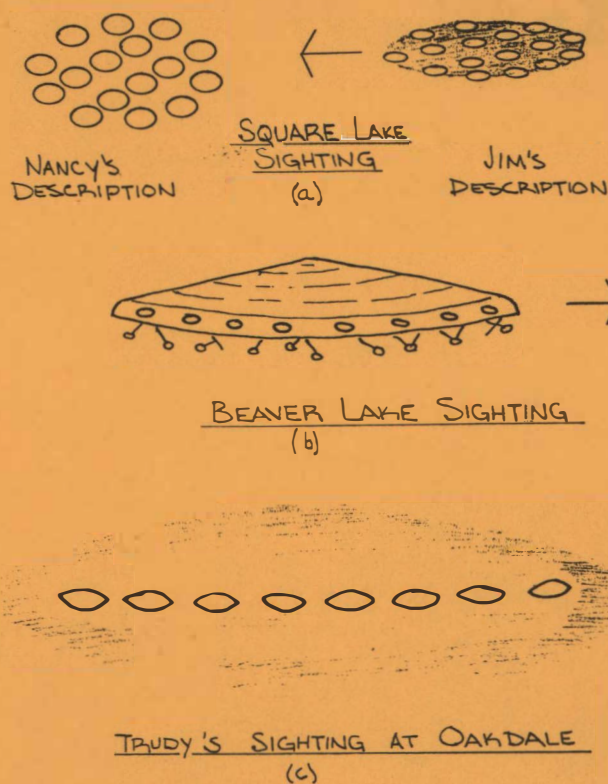


FIGURE 6.

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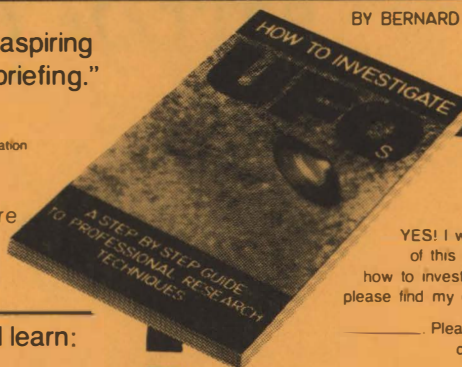
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